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LAW OFFICES  
**SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7060  
FACSIMILE (202) 293-7860  
www.sughrue.com

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October 23, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Hirokazu KONDO  
METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING PROOF  
Our Ref. Q58057

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including twenty-five (25) sheets of the specification, claims, eleven (11) sheets of drawings, one (1) priority document, Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449 with references, executed Assignment, PTO 1595 form and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

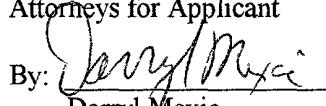
Total claims	13	-	20	=	x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	3	-	3	=	x	\$80.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee								\$710.00

<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>	<b>\$710.00</b>
Recordation of Assignment	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$710.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from October 21, 1999 based on JP Application No. 11-300073.

Since the anniversary of the priority date fell on a Saturday, the filing of this application on Monday, October 23, 2000, is sufficient to obtain the benefit of priority

Respectfully submitted,  
**SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**  
Attorneys for Applicant  
By:   
Darryl Mexic  
Registration No. 23,063

DM:clf

METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING PROOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

5       The present invention relates to a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof of an image generated by a first device, with a second device.

Description of the Related Art:

10       For producing a printed material containing a color image, it is necessary to take into account various printing conditions including the type of inks and print sheets used to print the color image, the illumination used to observe the printed material, and various other factors in order to obtain the desired printed material. These printing conditions may be established by actually printing the color image in test under various printing conditions. However, it would not be practical to perform test printing processes under all combinations of various many printing conditions because such test printing processes would require a large expenditure of time and cost.

20       There has been developed a print proof generating apparatus capable of easily simulating finished states of a printed material without carrying out an actual printing process. The developed print proof generating apparatus operates by converting printing image data supplied to generate a printed material in view of various printing conditions thereby to generate device-independent colorimetric

data of expected colors of the printed material, thereafter  
converting the device-independent colorimetric data into  
proof image data that take into account the characteristics  
of the print proof generating apparatus, and then generating  
a proof based on the proof image data.

Since the print proof generating apparatus allows  
printing conditions to be freely established by a conversion  
table which converts printing image data into colorimetric  
data, it is possible to generate a proof easily and inexpens-  
ively and then determine printing conditions capable of ob-  
taining a desired printed material from the proof.

Theoretically, all colors of color printed materials  
can be formed from three colors, i.e., C (cyan), M (Ma-  
genta), and Y (Yellow). However, the inks that provide the-  
se colors may not necessarily have ideal spectral character-  
istics. In order to compensate for the lack of such ideal  
spectral characteristics, it has been customary to add the  
ink of K (black) to those of C, M, Y to produce color print-  
ed materials with four colors. For producing highly accurate  
color proofs, the print proof generating apparatus also  
use four colors of C, M, Y, K.

The device-independent colorimetric data representing  
colors are expressed by three variables such as colorimetric  
values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  of the CIE colorimetric system or tris-  
timulus values X, Y, Z. However, the proof image data are  
expressed by four variables of C, M, Y, K. Therefore, a  
conversion table for converting colorimetric data into proof

image data cannot uniquely determine proof image data because it needs to convert three variables into four variables.

One solution is to determine K of the proof image data based on the colorimetric value  $L^*$  and then determine remaining C, M, Y of the proof image data from the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ . However, this approach is disadvantageous in that even if the printing image data represents K only as with a printed material containing only characters, proof image data of C, M, Y may possibly be generated from the colorimetric value  $L^*$ , and even if the printing image data does not contain data representing K, proof image data of K may possibly be generated. When these drawbacks occur, the printed material that is actually produced may not be in agreement with the proof highly accurately.

According to another proposal, a colorimetrically measurable gradation pattern in black only is produced as both a printed material and a proof, the association between the lightness levels of color values obtained by colorimetrically measuring the printed material and the proof is determined with respect to K, and then a conversion table for C, M, Y, K is produced based on the determined association (see Japanese laid-open patent publication No. 11-27553).

The above proposed process does not consider the difference between area percentages and the difference between densities due to the dot gains of the printed material which

represents a halftone dot image and the proof. Therefore, if an area gradation image is reproduced as a proof, then the reproduced image may have different gradation characteristics.

5

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a general object of the present invention to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof to bring an image produced by a first device and a proof produced by a second device into agreement with each other highly accurately without any appreciable discrepancies in view of the difference between area percentages and the difference between densities due to the dot gains of the image and the proof.

A major object of the present invention is to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof to bring a printed material which represents a halftone dot image and its proof into agreement with each other highly accurately.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof to bring a printed material which comprises characters and line drawings and its proof into agreement with each other highly accurately.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof to bring area percentages and densities, with respect to black, of a printed material and its proof into agreement

with each other highly accurately.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a proof to bring area percentages and densities of a printed material and its proof into agreement with each other highly accurately.

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which preferred embodiments of the present invention are shown by way of illustrative example.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a printing proof generating apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart of a process of generating a printer profile of the printing proof generating apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrative of an area percentage saving K gradation conversion table of the printing proof generating apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of another image data converter for use in the printing proof generating apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrative of a first density saving K gradation conversion table capable of fully saving

densities;

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrative of a second density saving K gradation conversion table capable of saving area percentages at 0 % and 100 % and saving densities at other regions;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a printing proof generating apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a system for producing a K gradation conversion table using an internal ratio;

FIG. 9 is a diagram showing a K gradation conversion table produced using an internal ratio;

FIG. 10 is a diagram showing the relationship between the lightness and the proof image data when the area percentage of black is 0 %; and

FIG. 11 is a diagram showing the relationship between the lightness and the proof image data when the area percentage of black is 80 %.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 shows in block form a printing proof generating apparatus 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 1, the printing proof generating apparatus 10 generates a proof for a printed material that is produced by a printing press 12 (first device) based on separated printing image data C, M, Y, K (image data D).

The printing proof generating apparatus 10 has an image data converter 14 for converting the printing image data C, M, Y, K into proof image data C', M', Y', K' (image data D'), and a printer 16 (second device) for outputting a halftone dot image, as a proof, based on the proof image data C', M', Y', K' produced by the image data converter 14.

The image data converter 14 basically comprises a printing profile 18 for converting the printing image data C, M, Y, K into colorimetric values L\*, a\*, b\* of the CIE colorimetric system, which are device-independent image data, a printer profile 20 (second conversion table) for converting the colorimetric values L\*, a\*, b\* into proof image data C', M', K' according to the output characteristics of the printer 16, and an area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 (first conversion table) for producing proof image data K' which allow an area percentage on the printed material based on the printing image data K to be reproduced accurately on the proof.

The printing profile 18 is a conversion table established based on printing conditions including the characteristics, including printing pressure, of the printing press 12, the characteristics of inks used by the printing press 12, and the type of print sheets used by the printing press 12. The printing profile 18 is established as a plurality of printing profiles that can be selected according to combinations of those printing conditions. The printing profile 18 can be determined by, for example, colorimetrically

measuring the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  of a printed material that has been produced under given printing conditions by the printing press 12 based on the printing image data C, M, Y, K, and determining, as the printing profile 5 18, the relationship for converting the printing image data C, M, Y, K into the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ .

The printer profile 20 is a conversion table established based on the output characteristics of the printer 16, and is determined according to a process shown in FIG. 10 2.

As shown in FIG. 2, a plurality of proof image data C', M', Y', K' including proof image data K' having an area percentage of 0 % and proof image data C', M', Y' having area percentages at increments of 10 % are generated in step S1. Then, the printer 16 outputs a chart comprising a plurality of patches based on the proof image data C', M', Y', K' in step S2. Colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  of each of the patches are measured by a colorimeter in step S3. A forward conversion table LUT ( $C'M'Y'K' \rightarrow \text{Lab}$ ) for converting the proof image data C', M', Y', K' into the colorimetric values 15  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  is determined in step S4.

Using the forward conversion table LUT ( $C'M'Y'K' \rightarrow \text{Lab}$ ), an inverse conversion table LUT ( $\text{Lab}K' \rightarrow C'M'K'$ ) for converting the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  with respect 20 to the proof image data K' (0 %) into the proof image data C', M', K' is determined in step S5. The inverse conversion table LUT ( $\text{Lab}K' \rightarrow C'M'K'$ ) can be determined according to 25

the Newtonian process which is a typical successive approximation process.

Then, the proof image data  $K'$  is updated successively into area percentages of 10 %, 20 %, ..., 100 % in step S6, and the processing of steps S1 - S5 is repeated until the area percentage of the proof image data  $K'$  becomes 100 % in step S7. In this manner, a plurality of inverse conversion tables LUT ( $\text{Lab}K' \rightarrow C'M'K'$ ) for converting the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  with respect to each of the proof image data  $K'$  into the proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $K'$  are determined. The determined inverse conversion tables LUT ( $\text{Lab}K' \rightarrow C'M'K'$ ) are set as a plurality of printer profiles 20.

The area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 is a conversion table for converting the gradations of the printing image data  $K$  based on the output characteristics of the printer 16 into the proof image data  $K'$ . The area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 is established such that the halftone dot area percentage of a printed material produced based on the printing image data  $K$  only and the halftone dot area percentage of a proof produced based on the proof image data  $K'$  only are equal to each other.

Specifically, a printed material produced by the printing press 12 and a proof produced by the printer 16 have different dot gains because they use different inks and sheets. If the printing image data  $K$  and the proof image data  $K'$  were set equally to each other, then the reproduced

images would have different gradation characteristics. The area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 is established according to a solid-line curve shown in FIG. 3, for example, for each of the combinations of printing conditions and proof outputting conditions such that the printed material and the proof have the same halftone dot area percentage regardless of their different dot gains. If the printing image data K has a halftone dot area percentage of 0 % or 100 % as with characters or line drawings, then the proof image data K' is set to have a halftone dot area percentage of 0 % or 100 %. In this manner, characters or line drawings are prevented from being blurred. The area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 is established as a plurality of area percentage saving K gradation conversion table that can be selected according to combinations of the printing conditions and the proof output conditions.

The printing proof generating apparatus 10 is basically constructed as described above. A method of generating a proof on the printing proof generating apparatus 10 will be described below.

With the printing profiles 18, the printer profiles 20, and the area percentage saving K gradation conversion tables 22 being set in the image data converter 14, desired printing image data C, M, Y, K are supplied to the image data converter 14.

The supplied printing image data C, M, Y, K are con-

verted into colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  by a printing profile 18 selected according to the printing conditions. The printing image data  $K$  is converted into proof image data  $K'$  for generating black to be outputted by the printer 16, by an area percentage saving  $K$  gradation conversion table 22 selected according to the printing conditions and the proof output conditions.

A printer profile 20 set with respect to the proof image data  $K'$  is selected based on the proof image data  $K'$ .

The printer profile 20 converts the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  into proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ . If the printing profiles 18 and the printer profiles 20 in the image data converter 14 are produced with halftone dot area percentages at increments of 10 %, then intermediate data between those halftone dot area percentages may be obtained by interpolation or the like.

The proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ ,  $K'$  produced by the image data converter 14 are supplied to the printer 16, which generates a proof.

The proof thus generated is such that the color black ( $K'$ ) is independent of the other colors ( $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ ). Therefore, the image of the proof is accurately representative of the image of the printed material without any appreciable discrepancies. Since the proof saves a halftone dot area percentage of black, it is accurate enough to reproduce halftone dot images of black only. As shown in FIG. 3, since the printing image data  $K$  which has a halftone dot

area percentage of 0 % or 100 % is converted into the proof image data K' which has a halftone dot area percentage of 0 % or 100 %, characters or line drawings on the proof are prevented from being blurred.

5 In the above embodiment, each of the printing profiles 18, the printer profiles 20, and the area percentage saving K gradation conversion tables 22 is established as an independent conversion table for converting image data. However, when a printing profile 18 and an area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 are selected, the printing profile 18, the area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22, and the printer profile 20 may be combined into a device link profile 24 comprising a single conversion table, and the image data may be processed by the combined device link profile 24. According to the arrangement shown in FIG. 4, the image data can be converted quickly by the image data converter 14.

10 In the above embodiment, when the printing image data K is converted into the proof image data K', the area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 is used which is capable of bringing the halftone dot area percentages of the printed material and the proof into agreement with each other. However, a density saving K gradation conversion table capable of bringing the densities of a printed material and a proof into agreement with each other may be used. Specifically, if image data are considered in terms of halftone dot area percentages, then the density of an image hav-

ing a halftone dot area percentage of 100 % on a printed material and the density of an image having a halftone dot area percentage of 100 % on a proof may considerably be different from each other. In this case, if the area percentage saving K gradation conversion table 22 shown in FIG. 3 is used, then the image is reproduced with different densities in its entirety. A density saving K gradation conversion table having characteristics shown in FIG. 5 may be established, and printing image data K may be converted into proof image data K' by the density saving K gradation conversion table shown in FIG. 5 to produce a proof which has the same density of black as the density of black on a printed material.

When the printer 16 produces halftone dot images, the density saving K gradation conversion table can produce a density equal to the density of printing image data K having a halftone dot area percentage of 100 %, but may possibly fail to produce proof image data K' having a halftone dot area percentage of 100 %. In order to achieve both the density and halftone dot area percentage requirements, a density saving K gradation conversion table shown in FIG. 6 may be used which applies proof image data K' having a halftone dot area percentage of 100 % to printing image data K having a halftone dot area percentage of 100 % to equalize the halftone dot area percentages, and equalizes densities at other halftone dot area percentages.

If the density saving K gradation conversion table

shown in FIG. 6 is used, then it is possible to obtain a  
proof capable of equalizing densities highly accurately, and  
reproduce an image having a halftone dot area percentage of  
0 % or 100 %, such as a character image or a line drawing  
image, highly accurately. Natural color images are consid-  
ered as being practically free of images having a halftone  
dot area percentage of 100 %. Therefore, reproduced images  
of such natural color images do not suffer a tone jump even  
if the halftone dot area percentage is abruptly changed near  
100 %.

FIG. 7 shows a printing proof generating apparatus 30  
according to another embodiment of the present invention.  
As shown in FIG. 7, the printing proof generating apparatus  
30 has an area percentage saving K gradation conversion ta-  
ble 22 (first conversion table) having the conversion char-  
acteristics shown in FIG. 3, a first density saving K grada-  
tion conversion table 26 (second conversion table) having  
the conversion characteristics shown in FIG. 5, and a second  
density saving K gradation conversion table 28 (third con-  
version table) having the conversion characteristics shown  
in FIG. 6. One of these conversion table 22, 26, 28 can be  
selected at a time by a switch 29 (table selecting means).  
The other details of the printing proof generating apparatus  
30 are identical to those of the printing proof generating  
apparatus 10 shown in FIG. 1. The printing proof generating  
apparatus 30 is capable of generating an optimum proof based  
on the characteristics of an image to be printed.

As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, the first density saving K gradation conversion table 26 and the second density saving K gradation conversion table 28 only differ from each other with respect to the halftone dot area percentage at 100 %.

Therefore, it may be determined whether the halftone dot area percentage of the printing image data K is 100 % or not, and if the halftone dot area percentage of the printing image data K is 100 %, then a printer profile 20 may be selected based on the printing image data K, rather than the first density saving K gradation conversion table 26. With this modification, the second density saving K gradation conversion table 28 may be dispensed with, resulting in a reduced amount of stored data.

If the halftone dot area percentage of the printing image data K is 100 %, then the proof is necessarily black irrespective of the other printing image data C, M, Y. In this case, therefore, the printing image data C, M, Y, K may be supplied as the proof image data C', M', Y', K' directly to the printer 16, rather than passing through the image data converter 14.

As shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, an internal ratio r between the halftone dot area percentage and the density may be established depending on the printing image data K, and a K gradation conversion table T as a conversion table for the printing image data K may be generated according to the internal ratio r.

Specifically, an area percentage saving conversion tab-

le T1 (FIG. 3) capable of saving area percentages in the entire range (0 % - 100 %) of the printing image data K, and a density saving conversion table T2 (FIG. 5) capable of saving densities in the entire range (0 % - 100 %) of the printing image data K are prepared. An internal ratio setting unit 31 sets an internal ratio r (0.0  $\leq$  r  $\leq$  1.0) according to an instruction from the operator, and outputs the set internal ratio r to a table combining unit 32. The table combining unit 32 combines the area percentage saving conversion table T1 and the density saving conversion table T2 according to the internal ratio r to produce a K gradation conversion table T represented by:

$$T = (1 - r) \cdot T1 + r \cdot T2$$

Using the K gradation conversion table T thus established, the printing image data K is converted into proof image data K' for thereby producing a proof image with both the halftone dot area percentages and the densities being appropriately saved.

If the table having the characteristics shown in FIG. 6 is set as the density saving conversion table T2, then when K = 100 %, proof image data K' with an area percentage K' = 100 % can be produced independently of the internal ratio r.

In the above embodiments, a chart is produced by changing the proof image data C', M', Y', K' in increments of 10 % for producing the printer profiles 20. However, the proof image data C', M', Y', K' may be changed in smaller increments for lighter colors and larger increments for

darker colors, such as in increments of 0 %, 25 %, 50 %,  
100 %, for example, and intermediate data may be obtained by  
interpolation. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 10, if the  
proof image data  $K'$  is smaller, the lightness is greater and  
the proof image data  $C'$  changes greatly upon a change in the  
colorimetric data  $L^*$ . Therefore, it is necessary to set the  
proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ ,  $K'$  at smaller intervals. Con-  
versely, as shown in FIG. 11, if the proof image data  $K'$  is  
larger, the lightness is smaller and the proof image data  $C'$   
changes to a small degree upon a change in the colorimetric  
data  $L^*$ . Therefore, the proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ ,  $K'$  may  
be set at larger intervals without posing an accuracy prob-  
lem. When the proof image data  $K'$  is  $K' = 100 \%$ , in par-  
ticular, the printing image data  $C$ ,  $M$ ,  $Y$  may be equal to the  
proof image data  $C'$ ,  $M'$ ,  $Y'$ .

In the above embodiments, the colorimetric values  $L^*$ ,  
 $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  of the CIE colorimetric system are employed as de-  
vice-independent image data. However, other device-  
independent image data, such as tristimulus values  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$ ,  
may be employed.

Although certain preferred embodiments of the pre-  
sent invention has been shown and described in detail, it  
should be understood that various changes and modifications  
may be made therein without departing from the scope of the  
appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a proof, comprising the steps of:

5           converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;

10           generating a conversion table for converging said image data D into said image data D' while saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, at said image data K = 0 % or 100 %; and

15           converting said image data D into said image data D' with said conversion table for thereby generating a proof represented by area gradations of an image generated by said first device, with said second device.

20           2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion table comprises a first conversion table for converging said image data K into said image data K', and a second conversion table, generated for each said image data K', for converting said image data D except said image data K into said image data D' except said image data K', further comprising the steps of:

25           determining said image data K' while saving the area

percentage of the image at said image data  $K = 0\%$  or  $100\%$  from said image data  $K$  according to said first conversion table;

selecting said second conversion table based on said image data  $K'$ ; and

determining said image data  $D'$  from said image data  $D$  according to the selected second conversion table.

3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising  
the step of:

establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data  $K$  by said first device, in a range except said image data  $K = 0\%$  or  $100\%$  at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

4. A method according to claim 2, further comprising  
the step of:

establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data  $K$  by said first device, in a range except said image data  $K = 0\%$  or  $100\%$  at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion table has a ratio set for saving an area percentage and density of the image of black produced from only said image

data K by said first device, according to a predetermined internal ratio.

5           6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said conversion table has a ratio set for saving an area percentage and density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, according to a predetermined internal ratio.

10           7. An apparatus for generating a proof, comprising:  
15           means for converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;

20           a conversion table for converging said image data D into said image data D' while saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, at said image data K = 0 % or 100 %; and

25           means for converting said image data D into said image data D' with said conversion table for thereby generating a proof represented by area gradations of an image generated by said first device, with said second device.

25           8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said conversion table comprises a first conversion table for converging said image data K into said image data K', and a

second conversion table, generated for each said image data K', for converting said image data D except said image data K into said image data D' except said image data K', further comprising:

5 means for determining said image data K' while saving the area percentage of the image at said image data K = 0 % or 100 % from said image data K according to said first conversion table;

10 means for selecting said second conversion table based on said image data K'; and

means for determining said image data D' from said image data D according to the selected second conversion table.

15 9. An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of 20 the image is saved.

10. An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said

image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

11. An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an area percentage saving conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

10 a density saving conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K;

internal ratio setting means for setting an internal ratio between said area percentage and said density; and

15 table combining means for combining said area percentage saving conversion table and said density saving conversion table to produce said conversion table according to the internal ratio set by said internal ratio setting means.

12. An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

20 an area percentage saving conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

a density saving conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K;

25 internal ratio setting means for setting an internal ratio between said area percentage and said density; and

table combining means for combining said area percent-

age saving conversion table and said density saving conversion table to produce said conversion table according to the internal ratio set by said internal ratio setting means.

- 5           13. An apparatus for generating a proof, comprising:  
means for converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;  
10           a first conversion table for saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;  
15           a second conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;  
20           a third conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K at said image data K = 0 % and 100 %, and saving the density of the image of black produced from only said image data K in a range except the image data K = 0 % and 100 %;  
25           table selecting means for selecting one of said first conversion table, said second conversion table, and said third conversion table; and  
              means for converting said image data D into said image data D' with the conversion table selected by said table selecting means for thereby generating a proof represented by

area gradations of an image generated by said first device,  
with said second device.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A conversion table is generated for converting image data D to be processed by a first device into image data D' to be processed by a second device for thereby generating a proof. The conversion table saves an area percentage of an image of black produced from only the image data K by the first device, at the image data K = 0 % or 100 %. Using the conversion table, the image data D is converted into the image data D' to generate a proof with the area percentage of black being saved.

FIG. 1

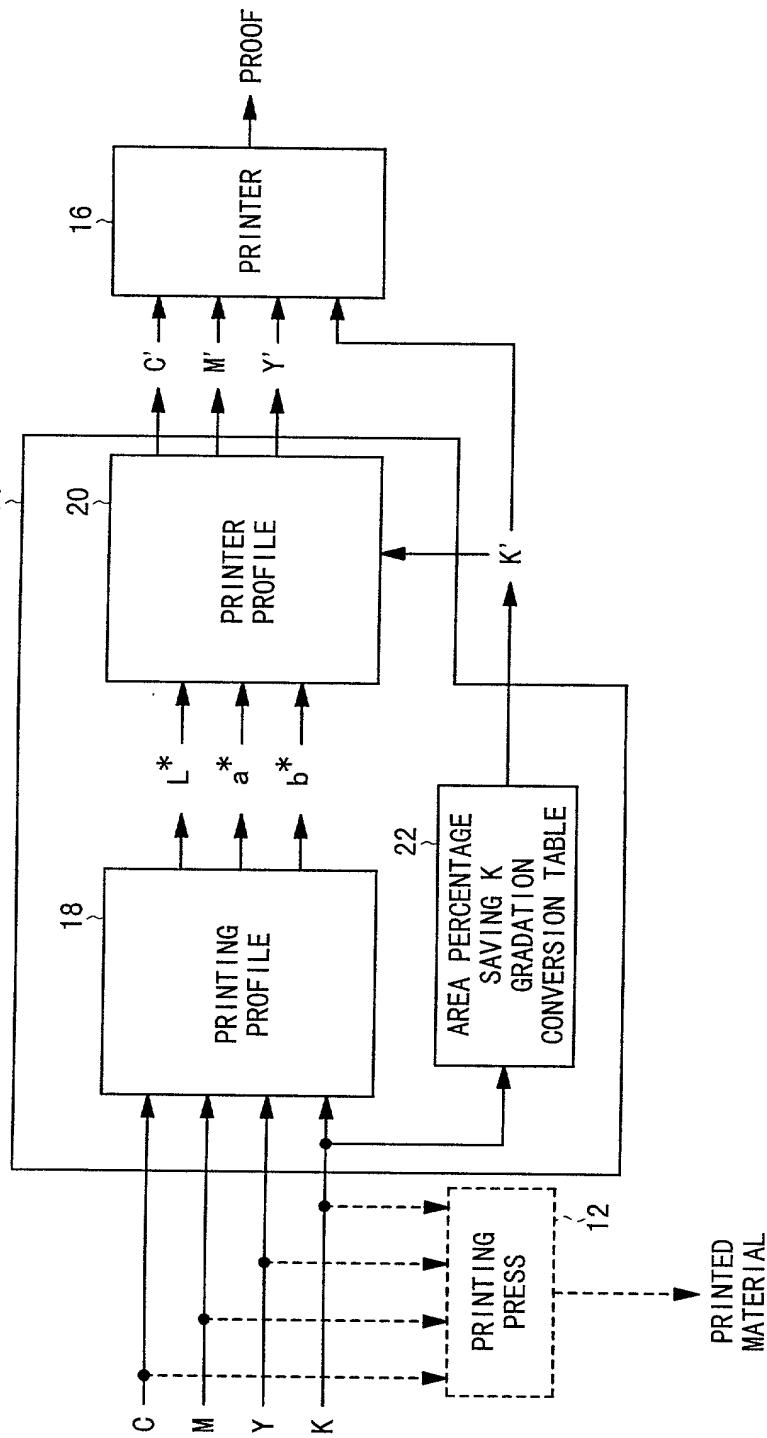


FIG. 2

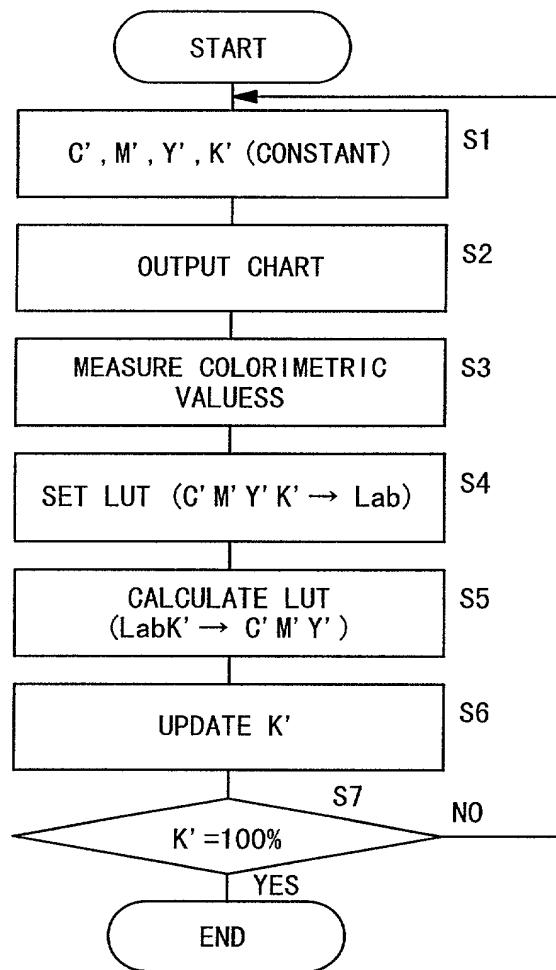


FIG. 3

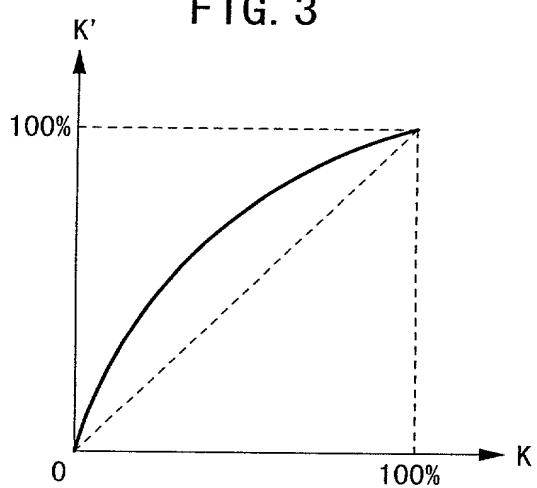


FIG. 4

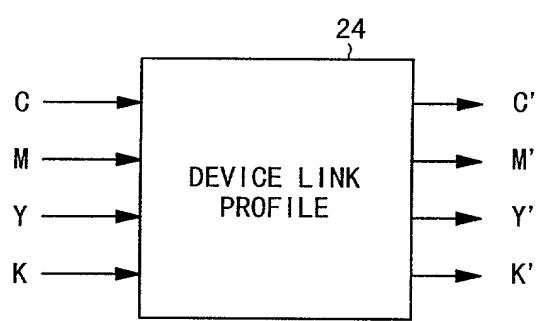
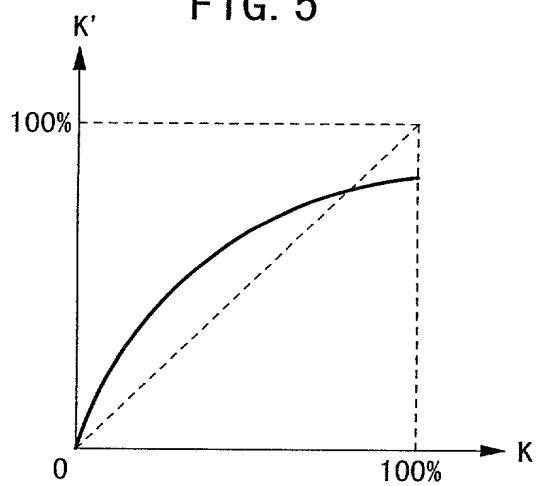


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

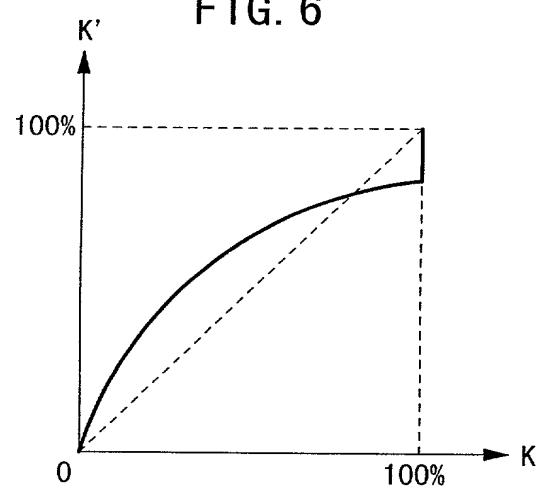


FIG. 7

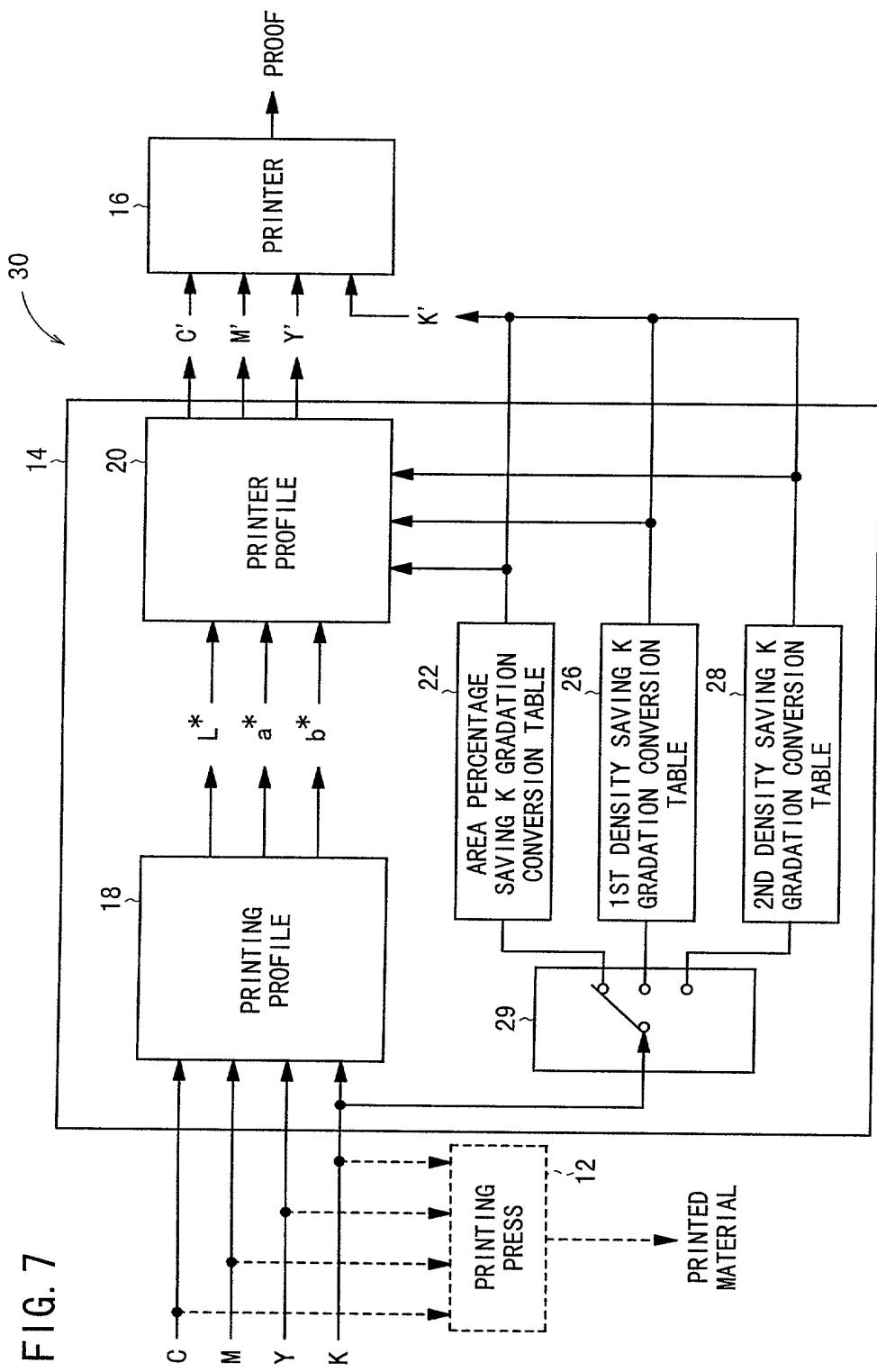


FIG. 8

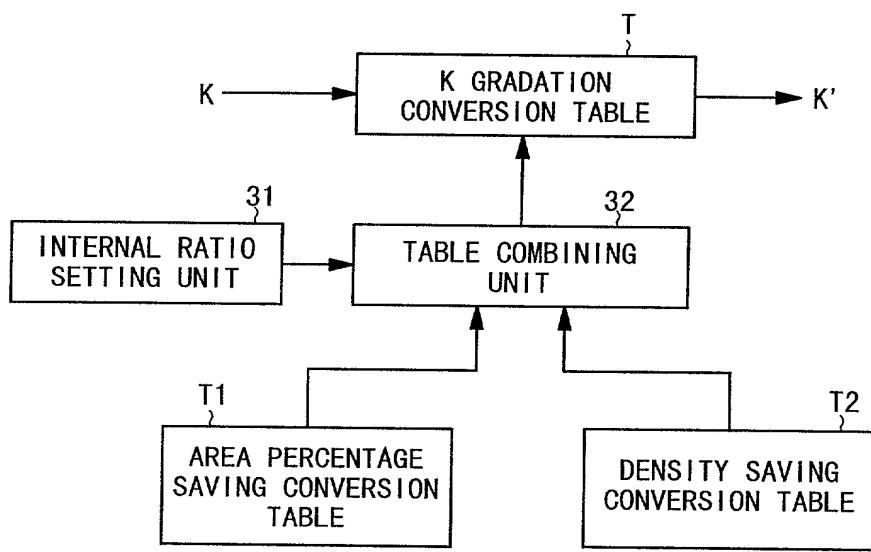


FIG. 9

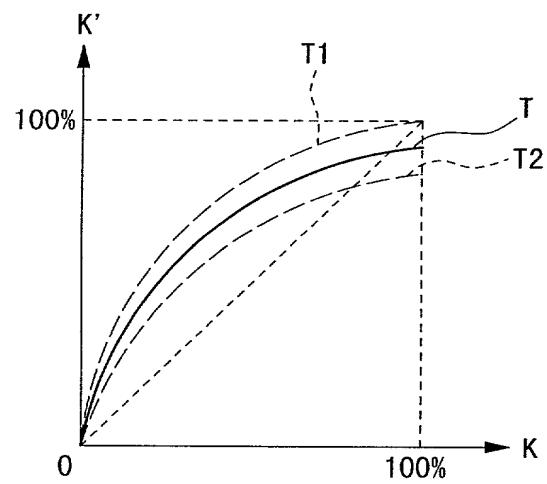


FIG. 10

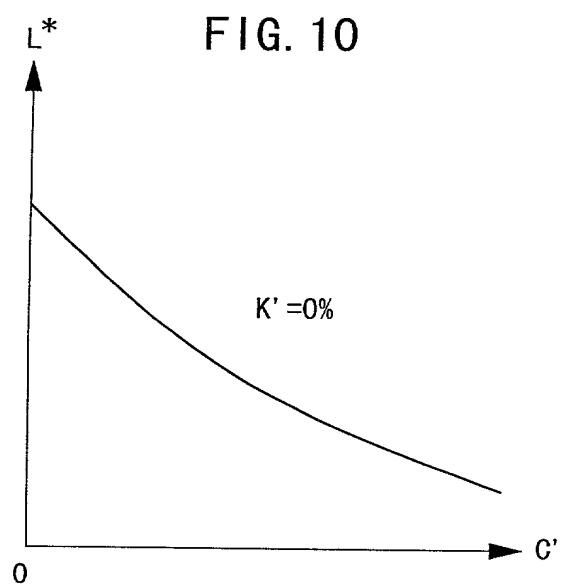
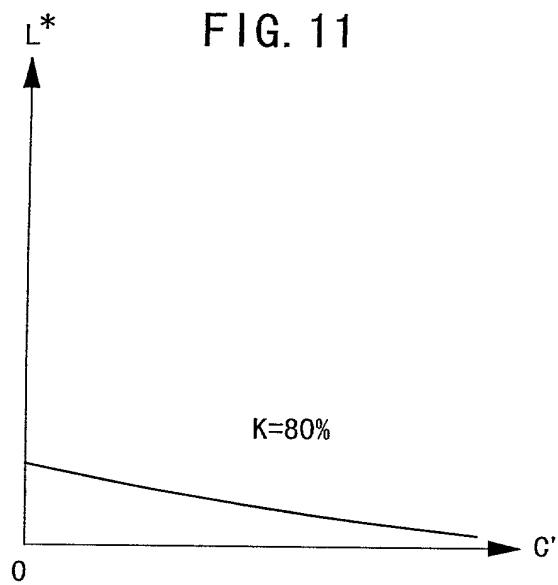


FIG. 11



# Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でX印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

\_\_\_\_月\_\_\_\_日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約

国際出願番号を \_\_\_\_\_ とし、

（該当する場合） \_\_\_\_\_ に訂正されました。

METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING PROOF

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as United States Application Number or  
PCT International Application Number  
\_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on  
\_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

# Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編第119条(a)-(d)項又は第365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一ヵ国を指定している特許協力条約第365条(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

## Prior Foreign Applications

外国での先行出願

Patent Application  
No. 11-300073

(Number)  
(番号)

Japan  
(Country)  
(国名)

(Number)  
(番号)

(Country)  
(国名)

(Number)  
(番号)

(Country)  
(国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張致します。

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)  
(出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編第120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約第365条(c)に基づく権利をここに主張します。又、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編第112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内又は特許協力条約国際出願提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編第1条第56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)  
(出願日)

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)  
(出願日)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言中で私が行う表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信ずるところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じてのこと、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed  
優先権主張なし

21 October 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(出願年月日)



(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(出願年月日)



(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(出願年月日)



I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)  
(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose any material information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

# Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

委任状：私は、下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米国特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士又は代理人として、下記のものを指名致します。(弁護士、又は代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg. No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765; Robert M. Masters, Reg. No. 35,603, and George F. Lehnigk, Reg. No. 36,359

書類送付先：

Send Correspondence to:

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3213

直通電話連絡先：(名称及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

(202)293-7060

唯一又は第一発明者名	Full name of sole or first inventor		
	Hirokazu KONDO		
発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature	Date
		Hirokazu Kondo	Oct. 6. 2000
住所	Residence		
	Minamiashigara-shi, Kanagawa-ken, JAPAN		
国籍	Citizenship		
	Japan		
郵便の宛先	Post office address		
	c/o Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., 798 Miyanodai,		
	Kaisei-machi, Ashigarakami-gun, Kanagawa-ken 258-8538, Japan		
第二共同発明者名(該当する場合)	Full name of second joint inventor, if any		
第二発明者の署名	日付	Second inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
郵便の宛先	Post office address		

(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること (Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)